

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-06 SIG-01 MMO-01 IO-13 AID-05  
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 COME-00 TRSE-00 OIC-02  
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TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS  
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INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO  
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OAS, TECH

SUBJECT: TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION: OAS TECHNOLOGY EXPERTS  
WORKING GROUP (TEWG) MEETING, MARCH 7-11

REF: STATE 299448

1. THE FIRST SESSION OF THE TEWG TOOK PLACE AT OAS  
HEADQUARTERS IN WASHINGTON FROM MARCH 7-11. AS WAS  
EXPECTED ON ALL SIDES, THIS FIRST MEETING WAS LARGELY  
ORGANIZATIONAL, AND LITTLE SUBSTANTIVE PROGRESS WAS MADE.  
IDID, HOWEVER, PROVIDE FOR CONSIDERABLE BROAD DIS-  
CUSSUIN OF THE FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH ANY REGIONAL AND  
SUB-REGIONAL TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION EFFORTS MIGHT BE  
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ARRANGED. DISCUSSION WAS OFTEN OVERLY GENERALIZED AND  
FRUSTRATION WITH LACK OF SPECIFICS WAS WIDELY APPARENT,  
BUT THE ATMOSPHERE REMAINED FRANK AND CORDIAL THROUGHOUT.  
THE US DELEGATION WAS HEADED BY DR. EDWARD BRADY, NATIONAL  
BUREAU OF STANDARDS AND INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES FROM NSF,  
AID, TREASURY, COMMERCE, AND STATE.

2. IMPORTANT ELEMENTS OF OUR STRATEGY FOR THIS FIRST ROUND WERE MET, ESPECIALLY THE AVOIDANCE OF POLEMICS CONCERNING THE ROLE OF MNCS, TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER CODES, ETC. INDEED, THE CONSENSUS IN THE USDEL WAS THAT WE HAD BEEN TREATED PRETTY GENTLY ON THE MORE SENSITIVE SUBJECTS. WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY THIS APPROACH ON THE PART OF THE LATIN DELEGATIONS AS A POSITIVE INFLUENCE IN GETTING AGREEMENT ON SOME LIMITED PRACTICAL MEASURES FOR TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION IN THE HEMISPHERE AND LOOK FORWARD TO MORE SPECIFIC REACTION TO OUR SANTIAGO IDEAS AS THE EXERCISE PROGRESSES.

3. WE WERE DISAPPOINTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE DISCUSSIONS SEEMED TO REFLECT LITTLE PREPARATION AND LACKED QUALIFIED REPRESENTATION ON THE PART OF SOME KEY COUNTRIES (BRAZIL, ARGENTINA, AND VENEZUELA WERE NOT REPRESENTED BY REPS FROM INTERESTED TECHNOLOGY AGENCIES BUT BY THEIR LOCAL OAS MISSIONS). WE HOPE THE NEXT SESSION WILL SEE SOME IMPROVEMENTS.

4. AMONG THE POINTS OF INTEREST IN THE FIRST SESSION, SEVERAL DELEGATES FAVORED DEVELOPMENT OF A SYSTEM OF COOPERATION THAT WOULD OPERATE: A) AT THE LATIN AMERICAN LEVEL; B) BETWEEN LA, THE US, AND OTHER DCS; AND C) AT THE WORLD LEVEL, IN CONJUNCTION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. SIMILARLY A CONSENSUS EMERGED AROUND THE US SUGGESTION THAT THE PROGRAM BE DEVELOPED UNDER THE BROAD HEADINGS OF TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY UTILIZATION. A POINT WHICH REMAINS TO BE RESOLVED CONCERNS WHETHER THE PROGRAM OF COOPERATION WHICH EMERGES FROM THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TEWG EXERCISE WILL BE WITHIN AND/OR OUTSIDE THE OAS STRUCTURE. WE TOOK ISSUE WITH SOME DELS ON THIS POINT BECAUSE OF A) CONSTRAINTS ON CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR EXISTING, LET ALONE EXPANDED, OAS PROGRAMS, AND B) OUR BELIEF THAT BROADER COOPERATION POSSIBILITIES WITHIN THE US COULD EMERGE IF THE PROGRAM IS STRUCTURED WITH MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY.

5. MEXICO, CHILE, COLOMBIA, JAMAICA AND PERU ALL PLAYED ACTIVE AND QUITE CONSTRUCTIVE ROLES IN THE DELIBERATIONS. MEXICO, CHILE, AND COLOMBIA PRESENTED SOME INTERESTING IDEAS, ALBEIT IN THE BROADEST OUTLINE, AND WE HOPE THEY WILL FOLLOW-UP. ARNOLDO VENTURA, TECHNICAL DIRECTOR OF THE JAMAICAN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH COUNCIL, SELECTED AS CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKING GROUP, DID HIS BEST TO PRESS FOR SOME PRACTICAL IDEAS FOR COOPERATION FROM DELEGATIONS, BUT THE DYNAMICS OF THIS FIRST SESSION PERMITTED ONLY A PRE-

LIMINARY EXCHANGE OF VIEWS.

6. AFTER THE MEETING SEVERAL DELEGATES INDICATED THEIR SATISFACTION WITH THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE MEETING, LIMITED THOUGH THEY WERE. A BRAZILIAN REMARKED HE THOUGHT THAT HIS COUNTRY WOULD HAVE TECHNICAL PEOPLE AT THE SECOND TEWG MEETING. THE VENEZUELANS REMAIN SKEPTICAL ABOUT THE VALUE OF THE WHOLE EXERCISE.

7. FOLLOW-ON WORK: A SMALL /FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE/ HAS BEEN APPOINTED (JAMAICA, CHILE, PERU, MEXICO, COLOMBIA, GUA, EMALA AND THE US, PLUS OTHERS IF INTERESTED) TO PREPARE DRAFT PROPOSALS FOR POSSIBLE ELEMENTS OF COOPERATION BASED ON THE DISCUSSIONS AT THE MARCH 7-11 SESSION. A MEETING OF THIS COMMITTEE IS PLANNED FOR APRIL 11-12 IN WASHINGTON. IN THE MEANTIME, THE OAS SECRETARIAT WILL BE DISTRIBUTING THE WORKING DOCUMENTS RESULTING FROM THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MARCH 7-11 MEETING IN ORDER THAT THE EXPERTS CAN CONFER WITHIN THEIR GOVERNMENTS FOR FURTHER COMMENTS AND SPECIFIC PROPOSALS. THE FOLLOW-UP COMMITTEE IS EXPECTED TO MEET A SECOND TIME, PROBABLY IN MAY, TO PREPARE FURTHER FOR TEWG II, PLANNED FOR EARLY AUGUST.

8. WHILE NO SPECIFIC ACTION IS REQUESTED OF POSTS AT THIS TIME, WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR REPORTING ANY INFORMATION

CONCERNING REACTIONS TO TEWG I, PLANS FOR TEWG II, ETC. THAT YOU MAY DEVELOP.  
CHRISTOPHER

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